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# THE ORACLE.

EXPONENT OF THE WEST GATE PHILOSOPHY.

A JOURNAL OF PROGRESS, DEDICATED TO THE PEOPLE OF  
HIGH IDEALS.

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We are not mocked. It was not in derision  
God made our spirits free.  
The prophet's brightest dream  
Is but the dim prevision  
Of blessings that shall be.

—John G. Saxe.

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"In the will work and acquire, and thou hast chained the wheel of Chance and  
shalt always drag her after thee."

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**Per year, . . \$1.00.**

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# THE ORACLE

EXPONENT OF THE WEST GATE PHILOSOPHY.

ISSUED MONTHLY.

CHARLES H. MACKAY,

Editor and Publisher.

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## FIVE WEST GATE PRINCIPLES.

### PRINCIPLE I.

PURITY OF SPEECH. Aim to make the *tone* of the voice clear and well forward. Eliminate all harshness. Avoid sarcasm. Speak gently. Take no part in gossip. Take no part in spirited argument. Do not use profanity nor any other unnecessary language.

### PRINCIPLE II.

Keep the thought pure and chaste. Command the mind to keep in divine channels. The ability to do this will follow from faithful practice of Pr. I.

### PRINCIPLE III.

Attend to the *needs* of the physical, but do not be ruled or influenced by demands of Sense.

### PRINCIPLE IV.

Waste no time. Keep busy in one way or another; either in thought or act.

### PRINCIPLE V.

You have the full use and control of all your members and functions. You may choose as to what they shall become, —servant or master! *Study* them and guide them into their line of divine service.

## DID IT EVER STRIKE YOU:

(1) That the things which annoy you and are distasteful, are no harder for you to bear than the scores of unpleasant impressions which *you* throw broadcast, and which oft-times are endured in silence by those whom you never credit with any spirituality or strength of character?

(2) That life might be made a far more delightful thing

if *you* were a little different and did not perpetually consider yourself a martyr to other's injustices?

(3) That "it takes two to make a quarrel," and that you have it entirely within your own control as to the sort of an existence you shall lead, and that in order to live the absolutely perfect life of peace you must take *all* the responsibility of the matter and never look to others for assistance in brushing away the obstacles?

If these plain, but rather disagreeable, facts have not heretofore found entrance to your mind, it might be wise for you to give some of your spare moments to thinking them over. Then note possible changes in your estimate of your real position in the scale of true attainment.

### The Moon's Position by Hours, Feb 1896

#### EASTERN TIME.

Moon enters the sign:

Virgo,	Jan.	31	at	9 a. m.
Libra,	Feb.	2		3 p. m.
Scorpio,		4		10 p. m.
Sagittarius,		7		1 a. m.
Capricornus,		9		2 a. m.
Aquarius,		11		6 a. m.
Pisces,		13		6 p. m.
Aries,		16		2 p. m.
Taurus,		19		8 a. m.
Gemini,		21		5 p. m.
Cancer,		23		7 p. m.
Leo,		25		6 p. m.
Virgo,		27		8 p. m.
Libra,	March	1		1 a. m.

New moon, Feb. 13, 11 a. m.

Full moon, Feb. 28, 3 p. m.

The principle conjunctions in February are as follows:

Saturn and the moon, Feb. 6, 3.39 a. m.

Uranus and the moon, Feb. 6, 11 a. m.

Mercury and the sun, Feb. 8, 1 p. m.

Venus and Mars, Feb. 9, 3 p. m.

Mars and the moon, Feb. 10, 2.16 a. m.

Venus and the moon, Feb. 10, 2.44 a. m.

Mercury and the moon, Feb. 12, 12.57 p. m.

Neptune and the moon, Feb. 22, 4.55 p. m.

Jupiter and the moon, Feb. 25, 10 p. m.

Perhaps the most interesting of these events, visible to the observer in this latitude, will be the conjunction of Venus and Mars with the moon. If the morning of the 10th is clear the eastern heavens will present a beautiful and inspir-



ing spectacle, with these three prominent members of the solar system so closely associated. Mars and Venus will then be separated by a distance of one degree or less, and both planets will be only five or six degrees north of the moon.

### "I LOVE."

I love to be, I love to live,  
I love to receive, I love to give,  
I love to feel the flow of love,  
From depths below, to heights above.

I love to caress, and be caressed,  
I love to know, there is no death,  
I love to look, into love lit eyes,  
And scan the skies, of Paradise.

No madd'ning passion ere, shall sway,  
My trusting heart, from this sure way,  
No pain or sorrow, can my hope remove,  
I love to know, that God is Love.

M. L. WELCH, Cordele, Georgia.

—Subscribers and exchanges will please note that the ORACLE has returned to Bridgton, and we would again urge that care be taken in directing mail matter to this place. There will be no trouble whatever if you spell the name correctly and write out the name of the state *in full*. Frequently the name is written "Brighton," in which case the letters go straight to the town of that name. Also when "Me." is used as an abbreviation for Maine, the letters often go to Bridgton, Missouri. But if "*Bridgton, Maine*," is written upon your letters they will always reach us promptly.

—A sample lesson of our Higher Theosophy course will be sent to any address for ten cents. Two lessons (or pamphlets) for fifteen cents. These were our first lessons sent out to the W. G. Brotherhood. We sell the full course of ten pamphlets for one dollar. See advertisement on second page of cover.

—The following offer holds good until March first: Each person sending us \$1.50 will be given a year's subscription to the ORACLE (commencing with No. 1, July, '95) and a copy of our lesson on Vibration.

"Build a little fence of trust around today,  
Fill the space with loving work and therein stay.  
Look not through the sheltering bars upon tomorrow,  
God will help thee bear what comes of joy or sorrow."

—People *encourage* their periods of depression. They seem to take an especial interest in and care for these enemies of peace. Why is it? Why not relegate these foes to oblivion at the very instant of their birth? *Try it* and note the result.

ELIZABETH PALMER.

—This is the motto of the W. G. Brotherhood: "There is but one victory worth the struggle; there is but one world to conquer,—the victory over self,—the world within." Now from this assertion we presume that a great many people would understand that it was simply necessary to concentrate every effort to the end of subduing the passions, developing occult "gifts" etc. When we first wrote that motto, and for weary years afterward, we held this ground ourselves. But sad, sad experience has shown us that we are (fortunately or unfortunately) placed in an extremely practical world. A world that asks considerable effort for all the privileges extended us. A world that slaps us smartly in the face and challenges combat. And so, while the "world within" needs long and prayerful attention, and, when brought into subjection, to the soul, may help inestimably in the journey toward the Kingdom of Heaven, yet the external and heretofore despised world grimly hangs at our heels and claims the honor (!) of being conquered also. Let us see what we can do in this direction.

—Send us three new names with \$3.00 and we will credit you with a year's subscription to the ORACLE and present you with a copy of "Vibration." For a club of six, at \$1.00 each we will give you our five dollar manuscript course.

—We aim to help those isolated earth pilgrims who, from all corners of the world, yearn for sympathy and a more congenial environment. We show them that *first* it is best to conquer present environment. Conquer it by rising superior to its limitations and living a purely ideal life within the soul's secret places. When a sufficient number shall have done this, they will then be fitted to dwell together in unity and power, in some harmonious spot where we shall implant our "Ideal Center."

—The consistent West Gate student shuns noise and aggressiveness. His position must always be rather a negative one in the line of teacher and adviser. He must avoid cheap notoriety. He must be *modest*, in the spiritual understanding of that word. He must *know* the things he teaches, and, honestly aiming to live as he preaches, he will ever be able to speak from the fullness of his heart, if occasion invites.

—Commence today, from the moment you read this paragraph, to live in closer proximity to wisdom. Be “as wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove.” First, watch the speech; secondly, conserve and properly *direct* all the forces of the body; thirdly, the moment a disagreeable thought comes to mind, *dismiss it*, and think of something in harmony with your better self. Surely these three suggestions may be easily followed if you really are desirous of solving life’s simpler riddles. A sincere and unwavering determination to follow these three rules is the only passport you need in order to become a member of the West Gate Brotherhood. Neither money nor favor can help you to enter this circle.

—Above all other things let us learn to be *tolerant*. Let us not suppose that *we* have the whole truth, copyrighted, and inaccessible to any one else. The dime novel, the sensational illustrated press, and the political “machines” have a use to perform in this world as well as the church and the advanced literature of the age. Were this not so they could not for a moment exist. It is not for us to combat these things. It is for us to diligently carry on our own work. It is for us to *fulfill*, rather than to destroy, or seek to destroy. And all the bitterness and opposition which we aim against our “opponents” only serves to bring them more vividly to the attention of those who would not otherwise have known of them at all.

—Of what avail is one or two hundred pages in a journal of advanced thought? The true interior student absorbs the *spirit* of a subject and he does this as completely through suggestion, in a paragraph of a few lines, as he could by reading through whole chapters of verbose, flowery sermonizing. The ORACLE aims to give a diversity of subjects, adapted to its reader’s needs. It suggests numerous ideas between its printed lines. It has no space for repetition, nor for pages of mere opinion.

—Advanced thought students who desire to possess mediumistic powers are too apt to expect impossibilities. They wish to attain their object at one bound. They ignore the fundamental requirement of a well-balanced mental and physical organism. There is a great difference between wisely ruling a dis-embodied spirit and being ruled by it. With a strong, self-centered individuality the medium would be no longer open to the varied and unreliable communications which are now so prevalent.

—A woman's mental and spiritual life is usually made up of three principal epochs, namely, Light,—Darkness,—Light. The first period represents her life until the age of twenty, or thereabouts. Then she marries, becomes a mother and for say fifteen years gives all her energy to the things incident to married life. During this period, it often seems to me that her mental and spiritual eyes are fast closed. Then follows another era of Light, and this period may be endless if she is wise enough to profit by experience, accepting the "dark" epoch as a needed phase of her initiation into life's higher and broader scenes.

MAE MACKAY.

—*The Mystical World* is a large, 12 page, monthly journal of advanced thought ideas. Hudson Tuttle and Joseph M. Wade are regular contributors. Its subscription price is fifty cents per year. Published by Hy. A. Copley, Canning Town, London (E) Eng.

—The following unprecedented offer is subject to withdrawal at short notice: We will send the ORACLE one full year for 40 cents per each subscriber in clubs of *not less than five*. Thus \$2.00 will pay five subscriptions, when all are sent at one time. Any number of names less than five will be taken only at the regular price of \$1.00 per year.

—Is it true religion for a woman to be so "pious" and so filled with her church interest, that her fireside throws out no warmth or attractiveness for her husband or other members of the family? Can it be religion, or love of God, that makes home unattractive and some other place more congenial? If the love of God were really within the heart of our zealous church woman would the husband be unable to enter there also, even tho' he did not own her "belief", or creed? "He that loveth not his brother, whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"

—Our system of training the dormant power is a step by step plan. Asking no promises nor expecting praise.

The *first* requisite which the aspirant of knowledge should possess is a sound, or harmonious, physical organism. Then there must be sufficient strength of will to wisely guide the forces of said organism. If you will fully carry this idea into your life you may soon attain true illumination and become one of the potent co-workers in the world's redemption. And if you have not the sound organism as a base from which to start, then you should lose no time in making it so. Health, strength and symmetry will come surely and speedily if you



will conserve your forces, as carefully explained in our lessons.

It is unwise to suppose that the inharmonies of life are caused by "circumstances" and the associations of environment. Your perplexities proceed from an inherent source, and your joys must start from the same point. The 16 Mss. lessons are prepared for the purpose of demonstrating this and to awaken and bring into equilibrium your hidden forces. When this is accomplished you will find life's journey far more pleasant and useful. *The secret is always with you.* But through your apathy and indifference the door to your real self is continually closed. Just beyond this mystic portal of your inner world all is brightness.

Your soul tries unceasingly to communicate with your reason—but flesh and sense forbid. *Raise* these lower forces. It can be done through wise application of the drills, concentrations, etc. Thus you may not only solve *your* life's mystery but may speedily take your rightful sphere as teacher and healer of your fellow man.

—I have been a student of occultism for the last ten years. I have never read anything before which gave me so much strength and light as the ORACLE. I must have it because I need it as a guide.  
J. S.

—I have no connection with any man or society of men other than the system of philosophy known as the "West Gate" which I founded in 1891. I am consciously under the direction of no one outside myself and never have been. Dr. J. C. Street has given me many points of valuable advice, both in personal association and through his writings. With this one exception, I cannot see that my personal association with other men and women, well known in the occult world, has been of any use whatever, except that they have generally proven obstacles for me to laboriously and painfully climb over. Viewed in this light they have been a help to me. They have been a help in the same way that a rugged mountain is a help to a sturdy traveller. If he possesses the endurance to cross it, he will likely develop greater strength for the next trial. So with me. I have hastened across these inconsistencies and obstacles; have kept my eyes steadily upon principle and truth (which these people quite generally champion, *in theory*) and have never allowed the *person* to hypnotize or retard me in any way. From the commencement of my public work, I have taken entirely independent views as to methods and principles of spiritual growth, as can be

proven from my earlier writings. These simple statements are made for the purpose of answering inquiries which are always coming to me something after this style :

“Who taught you these ideas?”

“Are you connected with such and such a movement?”

“Are you controlled by any spirit or master?”

“Is your system of astrology the same as—?”

I think a careful perusal of the above will answer all these queries. *Experience* has been my “master ;” and *Life* my “school.”

Regarding the last question, I will say that I never consult an astrological work for my planetary or lunar positions, for the reason that I have little faith in their correctness. My astronomical deductions and positions are invariably based upon my own observations and upon those given in that authority of the astronomical world—the Nautical Almanac.

C. H. M.

—Back numbers of the ORACLE are getting very scarce. We have no extra copies of August and January, and can now supply these months only in the unbroken set. We have a limited number of July, September, October, November, and December. Be careful of your copies and keep them in good condition for binding at the end of the volume.

—Exercises that develop the lungs and abdominal muscles are the best “stays” women can use. The clothing should leave the body perfectly free, especially at the neck, wrists, waist and feet. . . . “The true purpose of the fairy tale,” says Froebels, “is to impress a great moral truth in an attractive form.” . . . “It is my firm conviction that whatever gives the child pure and persistent pleasure is, however remotely, connected with some deep truth of his nature and has in it a germ of highest possibilities.” . . . Du Maurier says, “It is a wonderful thing the human foot—like the human hand ; even more so, perhaps, but, unlike the hand, with which we are so familiar, it is seldom a thing of beauty in civilized adults who go about in leather boots or shoes ; so that it is hidden away in disgrace, a thing to be thrust aside out of sight and forgotten. It can be sometimes very ugly, indeed the ugliest thing there is, even in the fairest and highest and most gifted of her sex ; and then it is of an ugliness to chill and kill romance. And all for the sake of a high heel and a ridiculously pointed toe—mean things at the best.” [SUGGESTIONS FOR WOMEN, BY AMELIA MURDOCK.]